

October 30, 1958

Dr. John Wolfe, Chief
Environmental Sciences Branch
Division of Biology and Medicine
United States Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear John:

Please find enclosed a brief summary of the activities of the recent field trip to Rongelap.

We were all more than pleased with Jim Kimmel and are looking forward to further association with him. Seeing him in action in the field leaves little doubt that his major interest lies in the marine environment. His swimming ability may help him in making unique contributions in this field.

Sincerely yours,

Edward F. Held
Research Assistant Professor

EH/jc

Enclosure

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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES
of the
RONGELAP FIELD TRIP
of
August 1958

The second field for the Rongelap ecology program was from 13 to 24 August and on 2 September 1958. The field party was made up of five senior scientists from the Laboratory of Radiation Biology, School of Forestry, Department of Botany and Zoology, University of Washington and six graduate students (five University of Washington and one Ohio State University).

The ecological studies included:

- 1) soil types and characteristics
- 2) ground water
- 3) percolation (by use of lysimeters)
- 4) nutrient content and deficiencies of soils and plants (by analysis and fertilization)
- 5) taxonomy and distribution of algae
- 6) collection of fish and observation of habits in various environmental situations
- 7) collection of corals for taxonomic studies
- 8) limited collections of native rats
- 9) observations and collections of birds
- 10) collection and observation of habits of some invertebrates
- 11) limited collections of plankton and bottom samples from the lagoon
- 12) A weather station was established near the village on Rongelap Island.

In addition food items were collected and background radiation levels determined with survey-type instruments. A daily ration of food grown at Rongelap was obtained from each of fourteen adults. Background radiation levels at Rongelap Atoll in March and August 1958 in mr/hr were:

Rongelap Island	0.029 -- 0.058
Eniaetok Island	0.067 -- 0.076
Kabelle Island	0.14 -- 0.16

The presence of ¹³⁷Cs in plant leaf and plankton samples indicates some contamination from the recent test series.